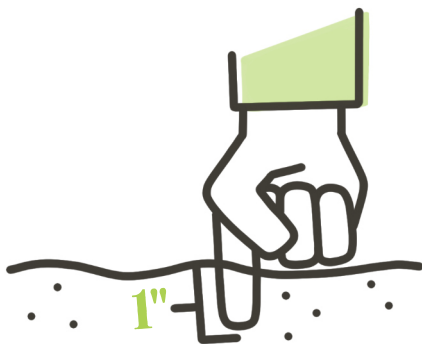


Watering Plants

Congratulations on your new landscape!

Your new plants will need consistent water to ensure they establish a healthy root system. Here are some guidelines for best watering practices:



1. Water for your soil type!

Generally, sandy soils retain less moisture while clay soil retains more. Check the soil at the base of a plant 30 minutes after watering. Use your finger to poke down at least one inch. If you find any dry soil, water more. If you find it saturated soil, check again the next day so you don't end up overwatering. The goal is evenly moist soil and plants soaked to the roots. In drought, dry soils need to be conditioned, or pre-wetted, to be able to absorb moisture; otherwise, you will see it puddle or run off and not actually water your plant's root system.

2. Water plants at their base until the soil is soaked to the roots.

Using a slow trickle (about the size of your finger), water shrubs and perennials for about five minutes and trees for 20-30 minutes. Even if it rains, you'll still need to provide supplemental water during the first 2-3 years until plants are well established.

NOTE: Sprinklers can work to water plants as well; however, sprinklers will need to run for a longer period than for a lawn as you are watering a deeper root system. Water in cycles to help water percolate best. Water for 10-15 minutes, check the soil, wait for 15 minutes, and water for another 20 minutes. Once you have an understanding of your soil capacity, this will get easier. (Also note, sprinkler water sitting on plant leaves can cause unsightly spotting and leaf burn.)

3. Water in the morning before the heat of the day.

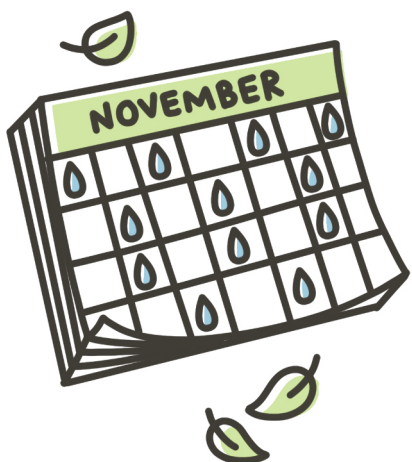
In extreme heat or on windy days, an additional evening watering is recommended.

4. Frequency of watering is important.

Water 3-4 times per week for the first two weeks, then 2-3 times per week for the next month during average weather. (Drooping leaves or flowers are a clue that the plant needs an immediate soaking.)

5. Keep watering new plants into late fall.

All trees, shrubs, and perennials will benefit from watering until the ground freezes. Evergreens require sufficient moisture to retain their color and healthy needles during the winter. This can also apply to mature plants in drought years — plants don't like to go to bed thirsty and can become stressed.



Taking Care of Sod

Just like your plants, new sod needs to be watered consistently for the first few weeks until the root system is established. Use a sprinkler, which will ensure an even distribution of water.

Soak until slightly soggy but not puddling. Verify that you are watering correctly by pulling back a corner and checking the moisture level. It should be moist to the touch but not dripping mud.

Keep sod wet, do not let it dry out during the day. Depending on the weather, you will need to water at least 2-3 times per day for several weeks then taper off to once every 5-7 days or as weather dictates. Try to time your last watering just before sunset so that the grass blades are not wet all night.

If you have irrigation: Monitor your planting bed irrigation system regularly to verify it is meeting the needs of your new plants. An irrigation system built specifically for a lawn is not an effective way to water plants in beds.